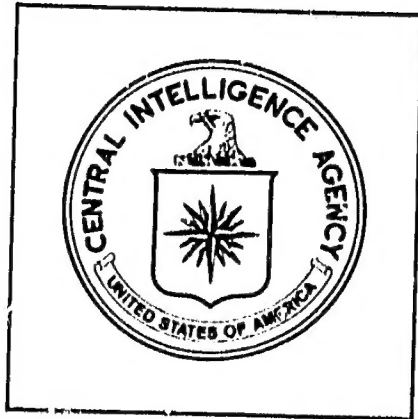


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OAU Officials Unhappy with Soviets

Recent discussions among senior officials of the Organization of African Unity indicate that the Berbera revelations may have a decidedly negative effect on Soviet relations with Africa. These officials are now convinced that a Soviet missile facility does indeed exist at Berbera. They are angered by Soviet duplicity and want the facility dismantled at once. Somali President Siad, who has been the president of the OAU for the past year, also came under fire for allowing himself and his country to be exploited.

The OAU officials commented that the vigorous American reaction to the Soviet build-up is understandable, and so is the plan to counter with an expansion of the US base on Diego Garcia.

Although these officials are administrators rather than policy makers, their views could have an impact when the OAU countries hold their annual summit meeting later this month in Kampala. Moscow is already feeling the heat on this issue, and if the the officials persuade the OAU to weigh in with a denunciation, the Soviets are going to find it harder to make heavier use of their Berbera facilities any time soon.

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